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Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 JUSE-00 /126 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/TA:ABWOODS:PRM
APPROVED BY EB/OT/TA:HKOPP
STR:TSTEWART
STR:SSCHWAB
AGRIC:RSCHROETER
AGRIC:TOYLOE
AGRIC:GSINDELAR
COMMERCE:DSCHLECTLY
EUR/CAN:GMONROE
----------001264 271032Z /14
R 262246Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ARTICLE 28/CONSULTATIONS WITH GOC RE: FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

REF: (A) OTTAWA 2406, (B) STATE 113819

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD DRAW ON POINTS IN REFTEL B IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER HORNER REGARDING THE GOC'S PENDING
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ACTION ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

2. AMBASSADOR MAY, AT HIS DISCRETION, WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS WELL:

-- THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARING TO ENTER INTO INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AS YOUR DELEGATION IN GENEVA HAS

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REQUESTED REGARDING THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF COMPENSATION FOR THE ARTICLE 28 ACTION. WE HOPE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE STEPS TO NARROW THE SCOPE OF THE ACTION BY ELIMINATING CERTAIN ITEMS FROM THE SYSTEM OF TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES BEFORE THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING THE CANADIAN DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL TO EQUALIZE OUR POTATO TARIFFS AT 30 CENTS PER CWT MADE DURING OUR APRIL 12 CONSULTATIONS. HOWEVER,

WE ARE ALSO UNDER DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO INCREASE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON POTATOES. A BILL WAS INTRODUCED APRIL 25 BY SENATOR HATHAWAY (S.2985) TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN TABLE AND SEED POTATOES AND TO IMPOSE A 75 CENT PER CWT DUTY ON ALL FRESH POTATO IMPORTS UP TO 100 MILLION POUNDS. THE BILL WOULD IMPOSE A DUTY OF 1 DOLLAR PER CWT. ON AMOUNTS ABOVE THIS QUANTITY.

3. INTERESTED USG AGENCIES BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER HORNER SHOULD BE LIMITED TO POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTEL B AND ABOVE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE (AND MAY WISH TO NOTIFY APPROPRIATE GOC OFFICIALS) THAT DELETION OF NECTARINES FROM SYSTEM IS NOT RELEVANT TO NEGOTIATIONS SINCE CANADIAN WORKING DOCUMENTS (GENEVA 7305) SHOW THAT NO CHANGE IS PROPOSED IN DUTY ON THAT ITEM.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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